



Residents voice frustration, support during Botetourt County budget hearings



VIDEO STILL COURTESY OF BOTETOURT CO.

The Botetourt County Board of Supervisors heard comments from several citizens during last week's public hearings at Lord Botetourt High School. Here, an LBHS student voices her frustrations about the aging facility.

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

A large crowd filled the auditorium at Lord Botetourt High School on May 13 as Botetourt County residents weighed in on the county's proposed fiscal year 2027 budget and advertised tax rates during two public hearings marked by sharp disagreements over school funding, county spending priorities, and transparency in local government.

The meeting was moved from the Botetourt Center at Greenfield to the high school auditorium to accommodate the anticipated turnout as debate over the county budget and recent actions by the Board of Supervisors intensified in recent weeks.

At the center of the controversy was the board's April decision to add funding back into the proposed budget after a budget subcommittee had spent

weeks working with department heads to reduce expenditures and balance the budget without increasing advertised tax rates. The additions, including roughly \$2.8 million tied largely to school funding priorities, drew criticism from some residents who argued the board undermined the subcommittee process and introduced spending based on projected future revenues.

The county's advertised FY27 budget totals \$159,082,778 in revenues and expenditures, according to Finance Director Katie Davis. The general fund accounts for \$95.8 million in revenues, while the school fund totals approximately \$51.4 million. Proposed tax rates remain unchanged at 70 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real estate and \$2.71 for personal motor vehicles.

Before public comments began,

See **Hearings**, page 10



FILE PHOTO

The Town of Buchanan's Memorial Day ceremony takes place this Monday morning at Fairview Cemetery beginning at 11 a.m.

Memorial Day ceremony in Buchanan Monday

American Legion Post 93 of Buchanan invites the public to Fairview Cemetery on Memorial Day as Buchanan's annual ceremony returns Monday, May 25, to honor the nation's fallen service members.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery and is expected to include remarks, patriotic observances and community participation recognizing those who died in military service to the United States.

Some of the activities include:

- David Austin and Hannah Austin Snyder will perform the national anthem and other musical selections.
- The Botetourt Sheriff's Department will present

the Colors.

- Lori Wingo will play "Taps."

Organizers also announced a fundraiser luncheon will follow the ceremony at Solomon's Mission, with proceeds benefiting the Fairview Cemetery Association.

This year's guest speaker will be Col. Keith Gibson, executive director of the Virginia Military Institute Museum System. In that role, Gibson oversees the VMI Museum and Jackson House Museum in Lexington, as well as the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield State Historical Park.

A Virginia Military Institute graduate with a background in public history, Gibson has worked

extensively in historic preservation and military history. He has served as a consultant on numerous historical documentaries and films, including "Gettysburg," "Gods and Generals" and "Field of Lost Shoes."

Gibson also played a key role in development of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and has authored and contributed to several books focused on VMI and Civil War history.

American Legion representatives and local organizers said they are looking forward to Gibson's address and encouraged the public to attend both the ceremony and luncheon.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

A ceremonial "topping off" event is scheduled for June 26 at the courthouse renovation project.

Fincastle Council reviews balanced FY27 budget, receives courthouse update

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

Fincastle Town Council opened a public hearing Thursday on a proposed balanced \$613,000 budget for fiscal year 2027, with town officials outlining revenue projections, infrastructure needs, and ongoing efforts to address aging sidewalks and water infrastructure.

During the meeting, Mayor Mary Bess Smith presented the proposed spending plan, which includes \$237,000 in the town's general fund and \$376,000 in the water and sewer fund. The proposed budget balances projected revenues and expenditures in both funds and is expected to come back before council for adoption in June.

Smith said the town remains cautious about several revenue sources,

including the bank franchise tax and meals tax collections. She noted the closure of the Kyle House and fluctuations among local eateries could affect meals tax revenue, while strong retail activity at local businesses has helped boost state sales tax revenue by roughly \$12,000 this year.

Among proposed expenditures, Smith highlighted a placeholder allocation of \$25,000 for sidewalk repairs as town officials continue discussions with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) over responsibility for deteriorating sidewalks in town.

"If we do take this on, they are going to be expensive repairs," Smith said during the meeting, adding that town officials

See **Fincastle**, page 3

School division recognizes its employees, student achievements at May meeting

Matt de Simone

mattdesimone@mainstreetnewspapers.com

At the May 14 meeting of the Botetourt County School Board, students, employees and community partners were recognized for achievements ranging from academic excellence and statewide honors to outstanding service and support for local schools.

Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack opened the recognitions portion of the meeting by honoring the division's Employees of the Month and reading the nominations submitted on their behalf.

Debbie LaFon, an instructional assistant at Greenfield

See **BCPS**, page 5



Lord Botetourt's Virginia Institute of Cooperative Education State Champion Sylvana Cavinder



First place winner in the Jackson River Governor's School Science Fair, Vivian Vernon



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

Lord Botetourt High School Principal Beth Mast, students Emily Maddox and Ashley Wilmer, and Assistant Superintendent Jordan Pinkard



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCPS/MIKE MOSER

BCPS Communications Specialist Mike Moser

'What it's like to be...?' Public Schools Communications Specialist Mike Moser

Matt de Simone
Managing Editor

In Botetourt County Public Schools, Mike Moser's role centers on communication, but he describes it in a way that goes beyond simply sharing information.

Moser, the division's communications specialist, refers to his work as "strategic storytelling for public education," a phrase he uses to explain how he approaches highlighting what happens across the school system.

"There's data that shows that Botetourt County Public Schools is high performing in the Commonwealth," Moser explained. "That data certainly tells one aspect of what we're doing instructionally in

our classrooms. But there is a rich history in our community."

He noted that part of his role is to bring attention to stories that may not always be widely recognized.

"We have so many students and teachers that, this isn't just where they work. This is where they live. They are an integral part of our community," Moser added.

Those stories, he continued, often go beyond traditional classroom instruction.

"Recently, we did what we call 'BCPS Beyond the Desk,' and we try to highlight what's going on beyond just the worksheet and what's happening beyond that," he said.

See **Moser**, page 3

2026 SEASON

Daleville
town center

Scan here for complete event schedule, and details.

MAY 23

BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET
DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER

8:30 to NOON

MAY 30

BOTETOURT FARMERS MARKET
DALEVILLE TOWN CENTER

8:30 to NOON

JUNE 6

MELLEN-COUGAR

5-9PM

33463 00107 5

Botetourt County History



PHOTO COURTESY OF BCMHC

This Moss Rose tea set is from around 1880 and was donated to the Botetourt County Historical Society by Harriet Fillinger. A teacup, saucer, tea pitcher, and small pitcher are shown; the sugar bowl has significant damage and is not shown. The set was one of the first items donated to the BCHS Museum when it opened in 1966. It is part of a special

new exhibit on the first floor of what is now called the Botetourt Museum of History & Culture. All of the artifacts in the display show the community pride invested in the opening of Botetourt County's historical museum in 1966.

- Botetourt County Museum of History & Culture



FILE GRAPHIC

Step Into History: Register now for Juneteenth's presentations on Greenfield's unique slave quarters

Did you know that the historic kitchen building at Greenfield has an unusual design rarely found in kitchens of its time (c.1845)? Do you know what the first step would be to rehab and restore the existing historic kitchen/slave dwelling building? Did you know that the fireplace in Greenfield's kitchen for cooking is unlike the typical antebellum kitchen fireplace?

The public is invited for the third activity during the Juneteenth Freedom Jubilee weekend June 19-20. Answers to these questions and more will be addressed during presentations on "Historic Greenfield:

Past, Present, and Future," on Saturday, June 20 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Come see a video about the history of Botetourt's Greenfield Plantation, hear Joe McGill, guest speaker, talk about his experience of "Sleeping with the Ancestors" in approximately 250 slave dwellings across the U.S., and enjoy a talk by Jim Johnston on plans for restoring the kitchen/slave quarters, a major historic asset in Botetourt County.

And afterwards, enjoy some local music entertainment and barbecue with all the fix'n's - and, it is all free.

Registration is needed, as there is limited space for 100 people in the lower

level of the Botetourt County Administration Building where these June 20 Juneteenth afternoon festivities are being held.

Registration forms and more detailed information can be obtained at www.HistoricGreenfield.org. You can either complete and return the form online or download, print and mail to Botetourt County Administration Center, Attn: HGAC/ Juneteenth, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, 24083.

- Submitted by Peggy W. Johnston
Historic Greenfield Advisory Council of Botetourt County/
Juneteenth Freedom Jubilee Committee 2026

Botetourt community meeting on proposed Google Data Center scheduled for May 30

A community meeting concerning the proposed Google Data Center in Botetourt County is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at the VFW on Route 220 in Daleville.

According to a flyer distributed by organizers, food and music will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed by a town hall meeting at 3 p.m.

The event is being hosted by the Botetourt Citizens' Group. The flyer lists the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter as a special guest.

According to its website, the

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization working for "a Virginia where communities—not polluters—shape policy and decision-making." The organization states it advocates for clean air, safe water, and healthy neighborhoods and supports what it describes as "a just, sustainable future together."

Additional information is available from the Botetourt Citizens' Group at www.bocodc.info.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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'Horrid Conspiracy' opens May 28 at Attic

Attic Productions' next presentation, "A Most Horrid Conspiracy," written by local playwright Dwayne Yancey, and directed by Attic veteran Katerina Yancey, runs May 28-31 with Thursday and Friday performances at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. Attic's D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center is located at 7490 Roanoke Road, Fincastle.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATTIC PRODUCTIONS

The two actors in the show are Sagen Blackwell (right) and Pete Farnham, both veterans of the Attic stage.

Presented in collaboration with the Botetourt Historical Society and Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg, this historical drama is based on a true story. Set in the mid-to-late 1820s in a frontier cabin in Rush County, Ind., it follows widower John Wyatt, a man in his late 70s living with his daughter and grandchild. As he recounts a Revolutionary War story to his granddaughter, she takes

on several roles throughout the one-act play.

Adult tickets are \$20, students 18 and under and groups of 10 or more are \$15 when paid in cash or by check at the box office. Tickets may be purchased on the Attic Productions website by visiting www.atticproductions.info. For questions or assistance with purchasing tickets, call the box office at 540-473-1001.

Volunteers are staffing the box office for this show on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. Leave a message at other times and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

This production is part of the Virginia 250 Celebration.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Troutville Park is site of 'Pickin' in the Park' community jam

Local music lovers are invited to gather for an evening of acoustic music and fellowship during the upcoming "Pickin' in the Park" community jam at Troutville Town Park.

Hosted by Moonlight Cultural Arts, the event will take place Thursday, June 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. Organizers say the gathering is designed to bring the community together through music, art and shared tradition.

The event is open to musicians and spectators alike, with participants encouraged to enjoy or join in performances featuring bluegrass, old country, folk, gospel and other acoustic styles.

Musicians planning to participate are asked to bring their own instruments, chairs and music stands if needed. Set-up will begin at 5:30 p.m., and players are encouraged to be ready by 6 p.m.

Those attending to listen and relax are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, along with snacks and non-

alcoholic beverages. David Austin will serve as jam leader for the evening.

Organizers noted that the event will be canceled in the event of rain.

For additional information, contact organizers at juneymoon1126@gmail.com.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MOONLIGHT CULTURAL ARTS

Fishing Rodeo raises funds for children



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA HUTCHENS

The 10th Annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo was held on May 9 at Thrasher's Pond in Springwood. This year's project was for Mill Creek Baptist's Backpacks program to provide food for school children when schools are closed. Here, a Rodeo organizer, Melissa Hutchens, presents a \$7,415.25 check to Dwight Fix for the Backpacks program.

- Fincastle Herald staff report

Historic Fincastle, Inc. awards annual scholarships to county students

Historic Fincastle, Inc. (HFI) recently awarded scholarships to students at James River High School and Lord Botetourt High School. Established in 1999, the Elizabeth and Israel Christian Scholarship is presented annually by HFI to honor Fincastle's history and support local students. This year's research essay theme asked students to explain how a person from Botetourt County in 1776 supported the Revolutionary War effort. Established in 2016, the Pat Simmons and Sally Eads Volunteer Scholarship honors two women recognized for their many years of volunteer service to the Town of Fincastle and HFI. Pat Simmons was a longtime educator in Botetourt County Public Schools and at Virginia Western Community College. Sally Eads was a history professor at Virginia Western



James River senior Keira Crawford and HFI President Patsy Dickerson



LBHS senior Alexa Gurley



JRHS senior Lillian Tingler

Community College and served on the Botetourt County School Board. Since these scholarships were established, HFI has awarded more than \$35,000 to support Botetourt County students.

On May 12, HFI See HFI, page 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HFI
LBHS senior Karleigh Brown

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you from the Kids' Fishing Rodeo

We want to thank each and everyone of you that took time out of your busy schedules to volunteer, to donate, to participate, to help set up or take down, to cook, to paint, to stock the pond, to the "fillers" of the fish for the children (all six fish that each kid caught was then filleted and put in a Ziploc baggie). Thanks to Steve Thrasher who provided the place for us to have this wonderful event (it was our 10th time having the fishing rodeo). To the organizations/individuals that not only donated raffle ticket prizes, but also Chinese auction items; there were 21 items in all (with multiple items in each); there were so many I cannot name them all but you definitely know who you are! To Game and Inland Fisheries that donated all the goody bags for the kids (along with DeeDee Bruce and Patsy Clark). The Lexington Moose Lodge donated all the trout along with the gentlemen that helped prepare the food (and they didn't have one child in this, either). The Buchanan Moose Lodge provided the food. We had face painting along with wagon rides, and we fed all the families that came with the children, too.

There are so many people that made this rodeo a success that I am afraid to start naming people because I will definitely miss some. All I want to say is this: NOTHING, and I mean NOTHING, could have happened without you. Pat yourself on the back, you deserve it.

There was a total of \$4,250 raised on May 9 alone, for a grand total of \$7,415.25 raised by the event. All proceeds go to the Mill Creek Baptist Church Backpack organization to help children in our area supplement dietary needs during the holidays, weekends, and time off the children have during the school year.

This was a well-deserved fundraiser for a wonderful charity. It was a beautiful day, the 59 kids had a blast that I could tell and so did the adults!

Thank you once again to everyone that made this fun day possible.

*Melissa Hutchens
Kids' Fishing Rodeo*

Calls for halt to solar facilities

It is called the "lake effect" – and it is deadly to birds and bat species whose populations are struggling. The lake effect happens when polarized light is reflected from large solar arrays simulating the way water reflects light. Birds flying overhead look for water by using polarized light. Mistaking solar installations for lakes, birds attempt to land, strike the hard panels, and are killed, crippled, or stranded where they eventually die. Aquatic insects, also drawn to the polarized light of solar panels, attract bats and insect-eating birds, many of which also meet the same fate. Each year worldwide 17.3 million birds die at solar facilities. Energy companies, like Dominion Power in Virginia for example, routinely hire people whose sole responsibility it is to collect the bodies of dead birds and bats from their solar facilities. Efforts to mitigate the bird kills

have so far been ineffective.

The stated purpose of wind and solar facilities, "green energy," was to protect the environment. As Vijay Jayaraj of the CO2 Coalition in Fairfax, Va., reported in April of this year, "Wind and solar facilities devastate wildlife, destroy habitats, fragment ecosystems, and leave ecological wreckage that extends far beyond what the green lobby cares to acknowledge. The narrative of politicians and well-heeled environmental NGOs – that wind and solar are the saviors of the natural world – is a lie. The data prove that these projects are not just displacing wildlife, but are killing it on an industrial scale."

"Lake effect" ripples flow also into the human sphere. When bat populations decrease, farmers must turn to man-made pesticides, which do not eliminate insects as well as bats. University of Chicago studies found that farmers in areas where bat populations had dropped lost \$26.9 billion. This loss was caused by a decrease in crop quality resulting in a decrease in crop sales capped off by an increase in money spent to apply pesticides. A more alarming human cost in these areas was an increase in the infant mortality rate caused by maternal exposure to chemical insecticides. Studies showed for every 1% increase in pesticide use there was a 0.25% increase in infant deaths. One such area cited in the University of Chicago study reported over 1,300 infant deaths directly related to pesticide usage.

"Green" energy is beginning to reveal a dark side. Two-thirds of Virginia's counties already have banned or otherwise halted solar projects. The prudent course would be for our planning commissioners and county supervisors to do the same – halt the recommendation and permitting process for solar and wind installations. Listen to the citizens of this county who do not want data centers, or solar installations, or battery farms. They want to be able to live in this special place where every green hillside has its own history. Past generations have loved this place. It is more than worth protecting for future generations.

*Cindy Bandy
Fincastle*

Questions actions at public hearings

Botetourt County held two public meetings last week– the Botetourt County Planning Commission and two successive public hearings in one place regarding the proposed tax levy and budget. Few attended the former. Many attended the latter.

The Planning Commission (PC) meeting consisted mainly of the Buchanan District member attempting to insert himself as the main attraction, although there were few there to witness the show.

The first request was for a Special Events Facility in an A-1 Use District which would be limited to 50 people and end by 10 p.m. It appeared that the Buchanan District member thought the matter came before the PC for the PC to help them plan the special events. He could not believe they wanted to end the festivities at 10 p.m. and suggested they change that to midnight and questioned why they did not want to

have at least 100 people.

Additionally, he brought a thumb drive which he insisted be shown on the big screen and questioned whether or not personal notice had been given to adjoining property owners (or those within a 500-foot radius, or a 1,000-foot radius) by going to their homes and personally telling them. I live 32 miles away and I did not get personal notice, as it is not required. I knew about it because the Botetourt County Planning & Zoning Office performed their job quite well and complied with the law regarding notice, so what was accomplished by all of this except wasting time?

He inquired as to whether or not the tent in which the special events were to take place would be left up for all events or taken down after each event. He then advised them of something about which he thought they might have forgotten to consider which he thought would be very important to their request (but which may not necessarily be a fact) when he said, "If you leave the tent up, then the grass dies."

He continued to want the spotlight on himself during the second request. He wondered what two other businesses in close proximity felt about this request. Could he have just discovered in the previous public hearing that they might have known about this request because notice was given as required by law? Did he notice that no one was there to speak for or against it? If he were so concerned about what they felt, why didn't he go ask them?

Is there something in the drinking water on Hardbarger Road on the southeast side of Interstate 81 which causes this apparent unquenchable thirst in public officials who reside there?

The public hearings on the tax levy and budget were entertaining, here were some superb presentations, especially from the first speaker! She possibly may be the youngest person to ever address the Board of Supervisors (BoS) and, by far, gave the best! I understand that one of our supervisors may have been upset that a young child got to speak first. Is that why she rushed over to the administration table just before the public session started?

There were many other speakers who gave informed presentations and did so in three minutes or less. And, of course, the CCs (chronic, not constant) were there, two of whom love to hear themselves talk so much that they spoke their drivel at both public hearings. The something they allegedly have to say is just a repeat of what they always say, on and on, ad nauseum.

There was one presentation made which attempted to explain why revenues were down well over \$1 million this year from last year. A document was provided to the BoS by this speaker, but it wasn't shared with the audience (probably for good reason). Nevertheless, the speaker made reference to 10 parcels of real estate being sold on June 2, 2026 due to the owners' failure to pay the real estate taxes thereon and tried to tie that into being the reason for the decrease in projected revenues. Because he lost me (and many others) with this, I looked into it further.

First of all, as of the time he spoke, there were only eight parcels scheduled to be sold on that day as two

See **Letters**, page 10

Fincastle

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remain hopeful VDOT will assist with the work.

The proposed water and sewer budget also includes \$10,000 for repairs at the town's treatment plant and \$25,000 to begin preparing sites for future emergency generators. Smith also stressed the importance of ensuring the county is billed for water use tied to the ongoing courthouse construction project.

Council members also heard an update on construction of the new Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse from County Capital Projects Manager Rich Evans.

Evans said the project remains on schedule for completion in September 2027 and announced a ceremonial "topping off" event is planned for June 26. Structural steel and concrete work on the building have been completed, while crews are continuing exterior framing and work on retaining walls along Back Street.

Evans said the project's next major milestone will be

getting the building under roof within the next several months, allowing interior work to accelerate.

"The overall schedule, we're still looking for September next year to have that building complete," Evans told council.

He also said work is expected to begin on the courthouse green space later this summer and noted replacement utility poles along Back Street have improved the appearance of the area surrounding the project. Evans added that Hill Studio is continuing planning work on restoration of the former law office and hotel building adjacent to the courthouse site, with construction expected to begin after courthouse work concludes.

In other business, Town Manager Melanie McFadyen reported that approximately \$173,505 remains available from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds dedicated to water and sewer

improvements. Several projects have already been completed, while installation of new digital water meters is currently underway.

Council also discussed ongoing maintenance and community projects, including a request from the Big Spring Garden Club for a \$100 donation to support flower boxes around town. McFadyen also praised the town's recent Earth Day event, while council members thanked VDOT for recent pothole repairs and discussed reports that additional paving work could occur in downtown Fincastle later this summer.

Additional discussion included preparations for the return of Paint Fincastle in June and plans for a youth art show during this year's Fincastle Festival in September featuring artwork from local students.

The next meeting of the Fincastle Town Council is scheduled for June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department.

Moser

from page 1

He pointed to partnerships within the community as another example.

"Our partnership with the Daleville YMCA– they host every second grader each year for a multi-day water safety experience," Moser noted. "That's not just the schools. That's a local organization that's committed to building people."

For those unfamiliar with the position, Moser described his responsibilities as wide-ranging and often changing.

"My day-to-day can really vary," he said.

His work includes maintaining the school division's website and social media, coordinating with media partners, assisting with School Board meeting broadcasts, and supporting events such as recognitions and banquets.

He also emphasized that communication is not limited to one individual.

"A big part of what I try to do is build more storytellers within the school division," Moser explained.

Moser began his career as a classroom teacher in Houston, Texas, teaching eighth grade social studies before moving into an instructional technology role. He later returned to Virginia and took on a role supporting instructional technology, which he said helped prepare him for his current position.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he became involved in helping the school division communicate with families during a time of rapid change.

"There was a heightened need to get information out quickly, efficiently, and in a variety of methods," Moser said.

He added that experience played a role in the development of the

communications position.

"I think the pandemic paved the way for our school division to create an official communications role," he said.

Moser described his current job as one that does not follow a set routine.

"There's not a standard day in my job," he said. "You never know what has happened overnight or is about to happen during the day that's unexpected," he said.

While some tasks repeat on a schedule, he indicated that other responsibilities require immediate attention.

"There are some things that are cyclical... but part of my job is you never know what's going to happen," Moser remarked.

He added that much of his work is planned, but not all of it.

"Fortunately, I'd say that maybe only a quarter or less is reactive," he said. "A lot of what I do is planned."

One of the challenges he identified is making sure information is both accurate and accessible.

"We have a responsibility as a school division... to be producers of accurate information," Moser explained. "But it's difficult sometimes to help our audience to become consumers of that information."

He described communication as a balance between sharing information and helping people understand where to find it.

"There's this constant dance between being a consumer of information and a producer of information," he said.

In urgent situations, Moser said communication involves coordination with others.

"I'm not working independently. I'm not working in isolation. There is a group that comes together," he emphasized.

He stressed the importance of accuracy when sharing information.

"As much as people are clamoring for immediate information... sometimes the situation warrants that we pause," Moser said. "Make sure that when we do communicate, we're not inadvertently creating increased panic or increased questions."

Moser described the most rewarding aspect of his role as its connection to the community.

"The most rewarding part of my job is feeling like I am playing an active and beneficial role in my larger community," he said.

He also pointed out that many people may not realize how much responsibility is involved in roles within public education.

**SALEM RIDGEYAKS
VS HICKORY CRAWDADS**

**MAY 26th 6:35 PM
2 for 1 Tuesday**

**MAY 27th 6:35 PM
MAY 28th 6:35 PM**

Take Meow to the Ballgame

**MAY 29th 6:35 PM Star Wars Night
MAY 30th 6:35 PM Bluey and Bingo
MAY 31st 2:05 PM**



Library BUZZ

Botetourt Libraries will be closed on Saturday, May 23, and Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Finding Non-Medical Home Care

Wed, May 20, 10 AM, Fincastle
Learn about non-medical home care: what it is and how to find it. Topics include help with personal care, meal prep, light housekeeping, companionship, and transportation. Presented by Delaine Caldwell, manager of Elder Rights and VICAP counselor. VICAP = Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program

SRC Tie Dye Bandana

Wed, May 20, 12 PM, Blue Ridge
Wed, May 20, 12:30 PM, Eagle Rock
Fri, May 22, 2 PM, Fincastle
Kick off the Summer Reading Challenge with tie dye bandanas.

Container Gardening

Fri, May 22, 10 AM, Fincastle
Learn about all aspects of container gardening. Presented by Master Gardener Tonya Harper.

Give Me Liberty

Wed, May 20-Wed, May 27, Buchanan
Explore Give Me Liberty: Virginia

& The Forging of a Nation, a traveling exhibition, from the VA Museum of History & Culture, highlighting Virginia's central role in the American Revolution and the ideas, people, and events that helped shape a new nation.

SIFT - Stop, Investigate, Find, Trace

May 27-30, All Day, All Libraries
This activity introduces participants to SIFT—a simple, practical method for evaluating the credibility of online information. Attendees will learn how to Stop before sharing, Investigate the source, Find trusted coverage from reliable outlets, and Trace claims back to their original context. Through brief, hands-on examples, participants will practice spotting misinformation and identifying trustworthy sources. This informal session is designed to build confidence and critical thinking skills for navigating today's digital landscape.

Botetourt Courthouse Update

Wed, May 27, 2 PM, Fincastle
Get the latest updates, plans, and goals on the demolition and construction of the Botetourt Courthouse. Presented by Rich Evans, Botetourt County Capital Projects Manager.

Learn more about Botetourt Libraries at bocolibraries.info

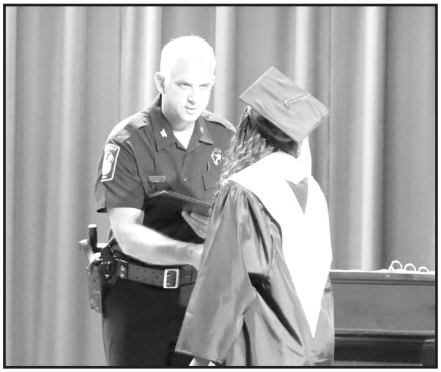
The Glebe Art Gallery is featuring art students of Patricia Kapral

The Glebe is presenting an inspiring art exhibit showcasing the talented students of Patricia Kapral. This exhibition highlights a diverse array of works, including works in acrylic, watercolor, cod wax and oil, and mixed media pieces, each reflecting the unique perspective and creative growth fostered within Kapral's classroom. Some of the students have been with Patricia since 2021, while others are brand new, just joining in 2026. The exhibit not only celebrates artistic achievement but also offers insight into the collaborative and encouraging environment Kapral creates for her students. The Glebe invites the community to join in recognizing and supporting these artists. The Artists' Reception is this Friday at 3 p.m. in The Glebe's Botetourt Room.

-Submitted by Lynne Bolton

The Sheriff's Post

SHERIFF MATTHEW T. WARD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCSO

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office presented its second annual Sheriff Student Scholarships to two exceptional high school seniors during this year's Senior Awards Ceremony at James River High School and Lord Botetourt High School.

Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship, aimed at supporting local students in their pursuit of higher education. Kaia Binns from James River and Forest Wagner from Lord Botetourt were selected for their academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to community service.

The scholarship program, introduced in 2025, is part of the Sheriff's Office's ongoing commitment to investing in the future of Botetourt County. It is made possible through the generous support of our community outreach program and is designed to assist students who not only perform well in the classroom but also serve their communities with heart and purpose.

To be eligible, applicants were required to be Botetourt County residents with a minimum GPA of 3.0, and planning

to attend a Virginia college, university, or technical education program. The application process included an essay, academic transcripts, a letter of recommendation, and a demonstration of consistent community engagement.

Certificates were presented to each student at their respective school's Senior Awards Ceremony, marking not just a celebration of achievement, but also a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and local youth.

"We are deeply appreciative of the community's continued support of our students and their educational goals," Sheriff Matt Ward said. "This scholarship reflects our commitment to investing in the future and encouraging the next generation of leaders to succeed."

For more information about the Sheriff Student Scholarship or to learn how to support the program, contact Andrea Mundy, Community Outreach Coordinator, at amundy@botetourtva.gov, or visit the scholarship page through your school's website.

- Botetourt County Sheriff's Office

ARRESTS

May 11-May 16, 2026

The Botetourt County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for May 11-16:

- Seth R. Sicina, 29, of Swannanoa, N.C., strangulation/suffocation, grand larceny, May 11
- Kris A. Kuhn, 48, of Glen Allen, Va., preventing the operation of a vehicle, May 12
- Mary K. Thornton, 35, of Roanoke,

- vandalism, May 13
- Joshua P. Greenway, 41, of Fincastle, reckless handling of a firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, May 13
- Shelby L. Montgomery, 41, of Clifton Forge, manufacture or sell Schedule drugs, May 14
- Michael W. Parr, 39, of Fincastle, aggressive driving, driving under the influence, May 16

Post 240 Notes

American Legion Post 240 announces upcoming fundraising events

American Legion Post 240 will hold donation drives later this month at local businesses in support of veterans programs, scholarships, and community assistance initiatives. Members of the post will conduct fundraising activities Friday, May 22, and Saturday, May 23, at Bojangles and Tractor Supply Co. According to information

provided by the post's executive board, donations collected during the events will support a variety of veteran assistance and youth scholarship programs, including the VA Voluntary Service Program, Vittles for Vets, the Military Women's Memorial, the National D-Day Memorial, Carrington House "Coffee with a Vet," and emergency financial assistance for veterans needing help with utility bills or food purchases.

Funds also support educational opportunities for local students, including four Boys State and Girls State scholarships for students from Lord Botetourt High School and James River High School, a memorial scholarship honoring former commander Ray Gabay for a James River student, and vocational scholarships for students attending the Botetourt Technical Education Center from both Botetourt and Craig counties.

Post 240 also expressed appreciation to management at both businesses for their continued support of the organization's fundraising efforts.

In addition to the donation drives, the post is selling \$10 raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$1,000 gift card from Williamson Farms.

According to organizers, the gift card may be used either in a single purchase or across multiple visits. Williamson Farms is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Individuals seeking additional information about the raffle may contact American Legion Post 240 at 540-999-5946.

- Submitted by Post 240 Executive Board

League for Animal Protection's Waif of the Week

Scottie

Scottie's about 10 months old, definitely a Beagle mix, but very small, about 12 pounds now. He is not aggressive at all, but definitely needs to get out of the shelter soon. He's very sweet but the environment is too much. He is neutered and up to date on vaccines.

The LAP Shelter is open from 8-11 and 3-5; 540-473-3853. Send donations to LAP, P.O. Box 561, Fincastle, 24090.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
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48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

- One who regrets
- Time zone
- Subway dweller
- Blind in a river
- Alias
- Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- Very (music)
- Zero
- Phil __, former CIA
- Competitions
- Unwell
- Puts in place
- Gets rid of
- Allows light to pass through
- Climbed quickly
- We all have it
- There's a North & South
- Emaciation
- Supervises flying
- Very dark colors
- Unwanted
- Grants
- Three visited Jesus
- Bro of Amun
- Wideway actress Daisy
- A Spanish river
- (German)
- French opera composer
- Six (Spanish)
- Last letter
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- A curved shape
- Make a mistake
- Tall plant
- Cassava
- Talented
- Capital of Estonia
- Finger millet
- In a way, assists
- Men's fashion accessories
- Misery
- Skin disorder
- Selling at specially reduced prices
- Good friend
- Stationary portion of a generator
- Expression of disappointment
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Where birds fly
- Midway between north and northeast
- Chaotic states
- Comedic actress Gasteyer
- Kids' dining accessory
- Snakelike fish
- Midway between south and southeast
- Assign lifelike qualities to
- One who cites
- Midway between east and southeast
- North wind
- One or the other
- Cavalry sword
- Of the Hungarian language
- Life stories
- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Swiss river
- Plant that makes gum
- French cleric
- One point east of northeast
- Free from

CLUES DOWN

- Computer memory
- "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)
- Ancient Syrian city
- College army

THE FINCASTLE HERALD & Botetourt County News

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HFI from page 2

President Patsy Dickerson presented the Elizabeth and Israel Christian Scholarship, valued at \$1,250, to Lillian Tingler. Lillian wrote her essay about Col. William Preston and plans to attend Liberty University this fall. She is the daughter of Keith and Andrea Tingler and lives in Eagle Rock.

The Pat Simmons and Sally Eads

Volunteer Scholarship, valued at \$750, was awarded to Keira Crawford, who has been very active in volunteering with Special Olympics. She plans on attending Mountain Gateway Community College. Keira is the daughter of Angela and John Crawford of Eagle Rock.

On May 15, the scholarships were presented at Lord Botetourt High

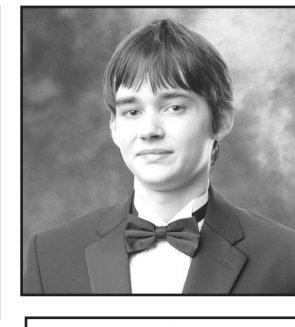
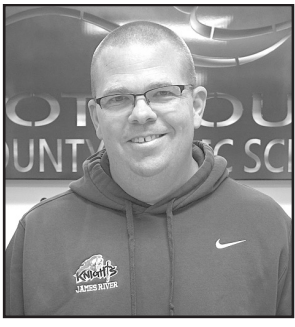
School's Senior Awards Ceremony. Alexa Gurley received the Elizabeth and Israel Christian Scholarship. Her research essay focused on General Andrew Lewis, and she plans to attend Roanoke College this fall. Alexa is the daughter of Tony and Melissa Gurley of Blue Ridge.

Karleigh Brown received the Pat Simmons and Sally Eads Volunteer

Scholarship. She has been active in volunteering through her church and the area's Young Life camp, and she plans to attend either James Madison University or Liberty University in the fall. Karleigh is the daughter of Thomas and Heather Brown of Roanoke.

- HFI

BCPS from page 1



BCPS staff and students were recognized during last week's meeting. Pictured are: (left to right) Employee of the Month Debbie LaFon, Employee of the Month Chase Davidson, dual enrollment graduate Madeline Rutledge, dual enrollment graduate Srijal Baniya, All-Virginia Honors Choir Delegate freshman Olivia Foster, and Brian Barger, who earned first place in the high school division of the Virginia School Boards Association Blue Ridge Regional Student Art Contest for his drawing of London's Big Ben.

Elementary School, was recognized as the classified Employee of the Month. Reading from the nomination, Womack said LaFon is "highly professional and a dedicated individual who consistently works hard to support her students." The nomination also praised LaFon for creating "engaging personalized activities" to help the students meet learning goals while fostering a supportive environment through her "positive attitude" and encouragement.

James River High School Assistant Principal Chase Davidson was recognized as the certified Employee of the Month. Womack read that Davidson "has worked so hard this year," consistently going "above and beyond" while maintaining a strong rapport with students, parents and staff. The nomination added that he "truly holds James River together."

The board also recognized several students for accomplishments at the regional and state levels.

James River High School senior Brian Barger earned first place in the high school division of the Virginia School Boards Association Blue Ridge Regional Student Art Contest for his drawing of Big Ben. His winning artwork will advance to statewide competition and is currently displayed at the VSBA office in Charlottesville.

Vivian Vernon of James River High School received recognition for earning first place at the Jackson River Governor's School Scientific Research Fair for her project, "Turn It Up or Tune It Out," which examined the effects of music on short-term memory and test performance. Jackson River Governor's School Director Eddie Graham praised Vernon's work and noted she was among the school's top research students this year.

Lord Botetourt High School freshman Olivia Foster was recognized for being selected as an All-Virginia Honors Choir delegate. Womack noted

that the honor is considered the equivalent of all-state recognition in athletics. LBHS choir director Ashley Meade said only a handful of students statewide are selected per vocal part and called Foster's accomplishment especially impressive because she achieved it as a freshman.

LBHS student Sylvania Cavinder was honored for winning a state championship at the Virginia Institute of Cooperative Education State Competition held in March at Graves Mountain Lodge. Cavinder will advance to national competition in Atlanta this summer and also received a \$2,000 scholarship.

The board additionally recognized dual enrollment students from James River High School and Lord Botetourt High School who are graduating this month after earning either associate degrees or Uniform Certificates of General Studies through partnerships with Virginia Western

Community College and Mountain Gateway Community College.

Students recognized from James River High School included Benjamin Lawson, Aaron Petty, Madeline Rutledge, and Ryder Ward for earning Uniform Certificates of General Studies. Caitlyn Downey and Makenna Saville were recognized for earning associate degrees along with the certificate.

Students recognized from Lord Botetourt High School for earning Uniform Certificates of General Studies included Srijal Baniya, Kennedy Dorsey, Olivia Harvey, Rachel Huard, Jonathan Malue, Reagan Meade, and Breeley Mitchell. Students recognized for earning associate degrees and certificates included Taylor Bowling, Ava Duff, Savanna Johnson, Emily Maddox, Rhiannon Stowe and Ashley Wilmer.

School Board Chair Anna Weddle then led the presentation of the Virginia

School Boards Association Business Honor Roll recognitions, which honor businesses and organizations that provide exceptional support to public schools and students.

Mrs. B's Restaurant in Buchanan, represented by Heather Burnette, was recognized for its continued support of athletic programs, student activities and school events, including providing meals for the entire James River High School football team during home games. Weddle described the restaurant as "a staple on Main Street" that consistently champions both Buchanan and Botetourt County schools.

Brent Hershey State Farm Insurance was recognized for sponsoring the James River High School Unsung Student Hero program, which awards two \$1,500 scholarships each year. Sabrina Billings accepted the award on behalf of Hershey. Weddle also cited the company's support of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCPS

faculty appreciation efforts, school service projects, athletic tournaments and student activities throughout the county and Roanoke Valley.

Kim Bergsten State Farm Insurance also received Business Honor Roll recognition for extensive volunteerism and financial support of school and community initiatives. Weddle highlighted Bergsten's work with Read Mountain Fellowship of Christian Athletes, PTA events, athletic fundraisers and support for local police and fire departments.

The recognitions concluded before the board moved into the regular business portion of the meeting.

Sirens and Salutes to host free Memorial Day movie at Hull's Drive-In

FREE MOVIE
Sunday May 24@ dusk
At Hull's Drive-in in Lexington
2367 N Lee Hwy
Sponsored by Sirens and Salutes

Sirens and Salutes, a local nonprofit organization that supports veterans, first responders, and their families, will continue its annual Memorial Day tradition later this month by hosting a free community movie night honoring America's fallen service members and first responders.

This year's event will feature the film "Taking Chance" at dusk Sunday, May 24, at Hull's Drive-In Theater in Lexington. The event is free and open to the public. The organization relocated the annual movie event this year because renovations are currently underway at the Buchanan Theatre, where the showing has previously been held.

Sirens and Salutes is also preparing for a major fundraising effort tied to the upcoming celebration of America's 250th anniversary this year.

As part of those efforts, the organization will host a 4x4 Poker Ride fundraiser Saturday, June 13. Registration will take place from 10-11 a.m. at the Dollar General in Fincastle, with riders departing at 11 a.m.

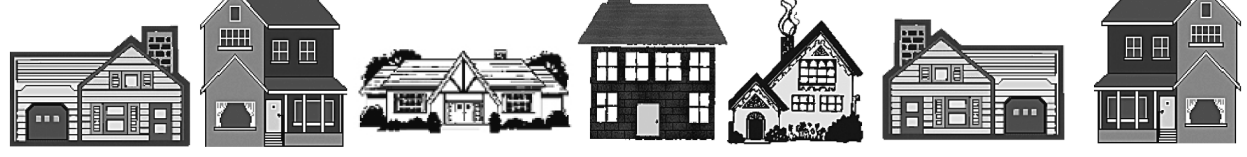
Organizers said the ride will follow a mostly stock-friendly route through Broad Run featuring 13 water crossings before concluding at the Buchanan Moose Lodge for dinner, drawings and a cake auction.

The fundraiser costs \$30 per vehicle and includes two dinners. Additional dinners for non-riders will be available for \$15. The first 50 registrants will also receive sling bags. Dinner will include hot dogs or hamburgers, macaroni salad and baked beans.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Sirens and Salutes as the organization continues planning events and activities surrounding the nation's 250th celebration in July.

For additional information about the poker ride or the Memorial Day movie event, contact Bill Price, Cindy Price, Karen Young or Cody Young through Sirens and Salutes.

- Fincastle Herald staff report



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Botetourt Worship Directory

ANGLICAN

Orchard Hills Church - 6032 Cloverdale Rd. next to Read Mountain Fire Station. Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays. Home group Bible studies available throughout the week. Pastor Scott McLucas, 977-6800. To find out more about Orchard Hills Church go to the website at www.orchardhillschurch.org.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

New Beginnings Assembly of God, 1317 Narrow Passage Rd., 43 North. Sunday School, 10:00a.m.; Worship, 11a.m.; Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 6:00p.m., Pastor Steve Tremblay, email: pastorstevetremblay@gmail.com. Everyone welcome.

Troutville Assembly of God, 118 Conner Lane, P.O. Box 728, Troutville, VA 24175, Pastor Dennis Carroll, 540-960-1224, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Everyone welcome.

INDEPENDENT**BAPTIST**

Crossroads Baptist Church - 1128 Wheatland Rd., Buchanan, Pastor Elmer Clemons, (540) 510-0927 Home, Sunday School 10:00 A.M., Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M., Sunday Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 5:30 P.M.

Faith Baptist Church - 4258 Botetourt Rd., Fincastle, VA. 24090, Pastor, Dr. John W. Reynolds, Phone; 540-473-2325, Email: jwr56fbc@yahoo.com, Church website: fincastlefaith.com, Services: 10 A.M. Bible Expositions, 11 A.M. Worship & Children's Church, 7 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, Messages at www.youtube.com/@faithfbaptistchurch9219. We look forward to meeting you.

Lapsleys Run Baptist Church - 608 Zion Hill Road, Fincastle. 540-556-3504. Worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00a.m.

New Hope Baptist Church - 2315 Blue Ridge Blvd. (US 460), 977-6610, Pastor David McNeill; Sunday School, 9:45AM; Worship, 10:45AM, 7PM; Wed., Bible Study 7PM; Kings Kids, 7PM; Daycare and Preschool, Mon-Fri. 6:30AM-6PM.

Valley View Baptist Church - 17471 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Daniel Boone, 254-2760 (church), 254-2570 (H). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM, Sunday Evening, 6:30 PM; Wednesday: Prayer and Youth Ministries, 7 PM, Word Of Life youth ministry for 4 year olds-12th grade Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Bonsack Baptist Church - 4845 Cloverdale Rd. (Alt. 220) Dr. Chris Cadenhead, 977-5701, Sunday School, 8:30a.m. and 11a.m.; Worship 9:45a.m.; Wed. Bible study, 6 p.m.

Buchanan Baptist Church - 19730 Main Street, Buchanan, Sunday Bible Study for all ages 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and activities for all ages. Facebook - Buchanan Baptist Church; Web Site - buchananbaptist.com; Phone - 254-2253, Minister of Music - Stephen Harris

Daleville Baptist Church - Corner of Valley Rd. and Orchard Dr., 992-1570;

Senior Pastor Wes Belcher; Sunday School 9:15 AM, Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 6:30 PM, Youth - 6:30 PM

Fincastle Baptist Church - Located at 7330 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, Rt. 220, 1 mile south of Fincastle, 540-473-2861; www.fincastlebaptist.org; Sr. Pastor Kevin B. Cummings. Sunday Mornings, we offer a dual Bible Study/Worship Service at both 9:00 am and 10:45 am. On Wednesday evenings, we offer events for the entire family: Kids Club (3 years-5th grade) 6:15-7:30 pm; Middle School Ignite (Grades 6-8) 6:15-7:15 pm; Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm; Ignite High School Group (Grades 9-12) 7:45-8:45 pm; and childcare (birth-36 months).

Forest Grove Baptist Church - 693 Mt. Moriah Rd. (Rt. 681), Eagle Rock, Rev. Jerry Marsh, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:35 a.m., Wed., Bible Study 7 p.m.

Glade Creek Baptist Church - 3148 Webster Road, Blue Ridge, Virginia 24064. Pastor Steve McChesney. Phone 540-977-1686 or 540-798-7462. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m., to include Children's Church. Wednesday evening Worship and Bible study begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m.

Mill Creek Baptist Church - 11475 Lee Hwy., Fincastle, 992-3474. Danny Quirin, Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday night activities begin at 6pm: Bible study, children and youth activities, choir and handbell rehearsals follow. office@millcreekbc.com

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - 4930 Country Club Road (corner of Country Club & Haymakertown Roads), 540-992-5556. Pastor Danny Barham. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Worship can also be viewed online at the PHBC Facebook page or on Youtube (PHBCtube). Other activities and schedules can be found at www.phbcweb.com.

Springwood Baptist Church - 88 Copps Hill Rd., Buchanan; Rev. Mike Anderson, 540-819-4616, Email pmike09@outlook.com. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday night bible study will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Troutville Baptist Church - P.O. Box 309, Troutville, VA 24175; 992-1026, Rev. Carol Johnston. Sunday School 10:00AM; Worship 11AM. Wednesday: Adult Prayer & Bible Study, 6:15PM; Youth & Children Activities 6:30PM.

Zion Hill Baptist Church - Intersection of Zion Hill Road and Old Fincastle Road. Pastor Donald Goforth (540) 884-2285. Sunday School - 10 AM Worship 11AM. Youth Activities (grades 6-12) and Kingdom Kids (preschool-grade 5) Wednesdays at 5:30 PM.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren - 4708 Read Mtn. Rd., 992-1060; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. (Sept.-

Time to Rest

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

"This project has to be done right, and it has to be done soon. Work all weekend if you have to." Some work assignments make us wonder if we need to make a few clones to help us get the work done. Life's responsibilities may seem larger than we can handle, yet we need to learn the importance of rest.

"It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).

God created the Sabbath for two key purposes. First, people need to set aside a day to worship God and fellowship with His people. Second, we need a day of rest and refreshing. Scientific research bears this out.

Nearly everyone must contend with deadlines and expectations from others. God, however, wants us to set aside time to rest and to seek Him. Obeying His instructions for rest and worship actually helps us gain the energy and renewal we need to be more effective and productive in the responsibilities we carry.

Prayer Suggestion: God, please direct me in ways to better rest in You.

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14-17

May), Family Dinner, 6 p.m., Bible study, 6:45 p.m. Preschool, after-school care & summer day camp for preschool and elementary age children. Patrick Starkey, Pastor; Shawna Burkhart, preschool director.

Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren - 10603 Narrow Passage Rd., Eagle Rock. PO Box. 183 Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Interim Pastor Dreama Osborne. 884-2292 (church), 540-597-8272 (cell). Sunday School, 10 AM; worship, 11 AM; Ladies' Aid meets 2nd Thurs. monthly.

Mt. Joy Church of the Brethren - 2565 Buffalo Rd., 10 miles N of Buchanan, 254-2298. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Michael Tabor, (540) 309-7595.

Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren, 3732 Breckinridge Mill Rd, Fincastle, Rev. Dr. David A. Tozar - pastor, Sunday worship at 11am, preceded by coffee fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study Sunday at 4pm, 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon, Handicap Accessible, Contact Pastor Davd at dtozar9@yahoo.com. Follow on Facebook, Sunday worship and Bible study stream live.

Troutville Church of the Brethren - 5133 Lee Hwy., 992-1571; Terry R. Johnson, Pastor; Don Obenshain, Choir Director. Sunday Morning Services: Sunday School, 10 am; Worship Service, 11 am. Sunday Night Meetings: Rainbows, 5:30 pm; Christ Seekers, 6:00 pm. Wednesday Night Meetings: Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Choir practice, 7:00 pm. Family Fellowship Time will be held each 3rd Sunday of the month. Handicap Accessible. Our email address is: Troutvillecob@hotmail.com.

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses

on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

EPISCOPAL

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - 111 S. Roanoke St., Fincastle. P.O. Box 277 Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. G. Willis Logan, Rector. 473-2370. Worship in the sanctuary and by Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:00am, with Adult Education on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:50am. Evening Prayer is Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm by Zoom. Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays at 12 noon in the Ministry Center and by Zoom. Links for Zoom can be found on our website, www.stmarksfincastle.org.

LUTHERAN

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) - 9068 Cloverdale Road, Troutville, VA; Paul Workentine, Pastor; Worship Sunday at 10:00 AM. Sunday School at 11:30 AM. Info and calendar at osroanoke.com. Phone: 540-977- 4888.

Wheatland Evangelical Lutheran Church - 1560 Wheatland Road, Buchanan, 24066; 540-254-1605. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m. (in person or parking lot, tune car radio to 88.9 FM). The Rev. Chuck Miller, 540-589-7553. Facebook, <http://www.wheatlandlutheran.org>; teemwheatland@gmail.com

NON-**DENOMINATIONAL**

Grace Bible Church of Botetourt - 148 Amsterdam Rd. (beside the south lane of 220 in Amsterdam, 1.5 miles north of LBHS). Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Pastor Jay Robinette - 855-4620.

Mt. Carmel Church, 6 miles south of Eagle Rock at intersection of Rt. 43 and 688; pastor, Richard Ronk; phone # (540) 884-3653; Sunday School at 10:00 A.M., Worship at 11:00 A.M., Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Woodland Church - We Present Christ - 45 Woodland Rd. Troutville, VA. Corner of Blacksburg/ Country Club Rds., 3.5 miles W. of Fincastle; 992-1008. Pastor: Caleb Lythgoe. Sunday School, 10AM; Worship, 11AM, Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30PM. Website: woodlandchurchbc.com. E-mail address: woodlandchurchbc@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN

Buchanan Presbyterian Church - 19559 Main St. Buchanan. 540-254-1390. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor. Choir rehearsal at 9:00 am. Sunday School at 10:00 am. Worship at 11:00 am. Videotaped services can be viewed on YouTube. The Food Pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Handicap accessible. Facebook page or website: www.buchananpresbyterian.org. Contact www.admin@buc

bucananpresbyterian.org
Fincastle Presbyterian Church - 108 E. Back Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, Supply Minister, Lori Turner, Music Director. Worship service in the Sanctuary and via Live Streaming (<https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch>) at 10:30 AM. Adult Sunday School offered at 9:30 AM. Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning service. Bell choir practices after Sunday Fellowship, often providing special music in our services. For more information please email fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com or call 540.473.2042.

Galatia Presbyterian Church - 78 Gala Loop Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. Rev. Emily B. Hook, pastor, 804-516-6552. Sunday School at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Morning Worship & Praise at 11a.m. each Sunday. Communion once each quarter.

Virginia Presbyterian Church - 918 Pico Road, Buchanan, 24066. Worship 9:30 a.m. (nursery provided), Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Church of the Transfiguration - 7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA 24090; Fr. Zaverio "Xavier" Banasula. 473-2656. Saturday Mass at 4:30pm & Sunday at 8:30am; Christian formation after Mass on Sunday.

UNITED METHODIST

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church - 3936 Beaver Dam Road, just off Springwood Road, Springwood. Rev. Morris A. Bennett. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. followed by Worship, 10 a.m.

Eagle Rock United Methodist Church - 14565 Church St., Eagle Rock, 10:15 AM; Glen Wilton UMC, Main St., Glen Wilton, 9:00 AM; Shiloh UMC, Shiloh Rd, Eagle Rock, 11:15 AM. Pastor Ray Sandifer (540) 525-0258. Mail donations for the building fund to P.O. Box 85, Eagle Rock.

Fincastle United Methodist Church - Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. In person services Sunday, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, 136 S. Church St., Fincastle. Service is also live streamed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FincastleUMCMedia> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068517955699>. Reverend Jim Bollinger, office, 473-3001. E-mail: office@fincastleumc.org.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church - 19 Cedar Ridge Drive, Daleville. Pastor Samuel Plymale, 992-3030. We have one service on Sundays at 10:00am, with Sunday School for children, youth, and adults following at 11:00am. Shipyard Youth meets every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm, unless there is a special monthly mission event. Frogs and Tadpoles Children's Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, September through April, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

Trinity United Methodist Church - 19637 Main St., Buchanan; Rev. Doug Mitchell, 254-2475 (O). Worship, 9:45AM, Sunday School 10:30 AM.

OBITUARIES

The Fincastle Herald regrets the mistaken reprinting of an obituary in last week's edition and extends its sincere apologies to the family of Robert Simmons.

Flinchum, Maj. Thomas Wilson

Major Thomas Wilson Flinchum, U.S. Army (Retired), 83, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

A proud American, Tom dedicated 20 years of his life to service in the United States Army, retiring with the rank of Major. A highly decorated veteran, he courageously led troops during the Vietnam War and carried a deep sense of duty, leadership, and patriotism throughout his life. Those who served alongside him respected his strength, integrity, and steady leadership.

Following his military retirement, Tom began a second career with the Maintenance Department of Botetourt County Public Schools, where his hard work and commitment once again earned him the respect of colleagues and the community. Over two years, he rose to become head of the department before retiring for a second time.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Tom was a devoted family man who found his greatest joy in the people he loved. He shared a special bond with his beloved wife, Dottie, whether cheering on women's basketball together, spending quiet evenings at home, or enjoying the simple moments that made a life

well lived. He also loved the game of golf and treasured the friendships and memories made on the course.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy; his two daughters, Tammy Keith (Kip), and Monica Wolfe (Derek); his brother, Doug Flinchum, nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, all of whom called him Poppy (or Pops) and were blessed by his wisdom, humor, strength, and unwavering love: Chad Rickman (Abby Erdman) and their children Levi and Lulu; Carissa Deloach (Zach) and their two daughters; Joshua Keith; Caleigh McKinnie (PJ) and their children Evelyn and Daphne; Matthew Sweeney (Madeline) and their children Ruby, Park and Lilly; Tommy Keith; Noah Keith (Tori) and their children Kinsley and Kylie; Hunter Collins (Megan) and their daughter Addie; Makenzie Collins Gallimore (Chris); Brittanii Ortiz (Anthony) and their children Kyler and Sophia; Daniel Wolfe; Rebecca Peltonen (Andrew) and their son Elliott.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Archie and Mildred Flinchum.

Thomas Wilson Flinchum will be remembered as a devoted husband, proud father and grandfather,



respected leader, decorated veteran, and loyal friend. His legacy of service, humility, and love for family will continue to live on in all who knew him.

The family will like to offer special thanks to the hospice and acute care staff at the Veterans Hospital in Salem for their loving care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Veterans Hospital in Salem.

A visitation was held on Sunday, May 10, 2026, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Oakey's East Chapel. Funeral services were on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Rob Lough officiating. The interment service followed immediately after at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens on Airport Road with Military Honors to honor his faithful service to his country.

Arrangements were by Oakey's East Chapel, 540-977-3909.

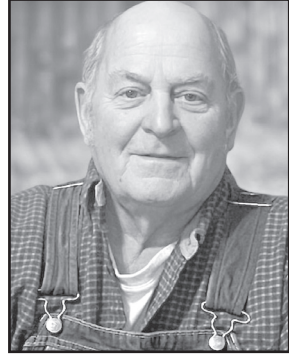
Duke, Will Henry

Will Henry Duke, 80, of grandchildren, Bradley Hedrick, Buchanan, passed away peacefully on DJ Fowler, Emma Campbell, and Monday, May 18, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred B. Duke and Pauline B. Duke; brothers, JB Duke (Sally), Dewey Duke, and Tommy Duke (Violet); sisters, Geneva Duke, Viola Duke, and Earcel Wright; and brother-in-law, Jackie Markham.

He was an equipment operator for over 45 years at Aaron J. Conner Construction. He was also an avid gardener, enjoyed spending time at North Star Restaurant at the "round table", and a deer hunter.

Left to cherish Will's memory are his wife of 62 years, Margaret Ann Duke; daughters, Donna Wilson (Harry), Ann Marie "Cricket" Duke, and Missy Campbell (Kevin);



great-grandchildren, Bradley Pennington and Alayna Pennington; sister, Madeline "Bugs" Markham; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Buchanan Chapel of Botetourt Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Fairview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to donate in Will's honor may do so to Good Samaritan Hospice. Online condolences may be sent at www.botetourtfh.com or by calling 540-254-3000.

CHURCH NEWS

Buchanan Food Pantry open Saturday

Groceries for anyone in need will be available for pick-up May 23 at Buchanan Presbyterian Church, 19559 Main Street, Buchanan. Volunteers from Mill Creek Baptist Church will be the hosts from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. They will have meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal and other non-perishables. The next distribution will be June 13.

If you would like to help support this mission, monetary gifts can be sent to Buchanan Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, 24066; or drop food off at Southern Girls Mercantile, 19812 Main Street, Buchanan.

Save the date: June 20 will be the annual "Fill the Porch to Feed my Sheep" drive. Non-perishable groceries can be dropped off at the church between 9 a.m. and noon.

Fish Fry at Mill Creek May 30

The Standing Rock Mission Team of Mill Creek Baptist Church will hold its Spring Fish Fry on Saturday, May 30, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Tickets are \$15 and the meal will consist of two pieces of white fish, parsley potatoes, slaw, and hushpuppies, eat in or carry out. There will also be homemade desserts for sale at an additional price. Tickets may be reserved by calling 540-797-2304.

Fincastle UMC offering free dinner

Everyone is welcome to the free Terrific Tuesdays Church and Community Dinner at Fincastle United Methodist Church's Family Life Center, at 137 S. Church Street, on Tuesday, May 26. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m.

Special service at Mt. Olivet UMC

"Honoring Our Past and Looking to Our Future" is the theme when Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Buchanan, holds a worship service in the Mount Olivet Cemetery (Roaring Run) on Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be at church following the service. Chairs will be provided, but unsure how many will be attend, so please bring a chair if you can.

All are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship. Inform family and friends who may have loved ones buried there. Melanie Franklin is the pastor, 540-521-2154 or 540-798-8192.

Joyful Journeys planning trip to Pennsylvania

You are invited to join the Joyful Journey Travels of St. Mark's UMC, Daleville, to Lancaster, Pa., to the Sight & Sound Theatre featuring "Joshua" June 15-17. This is a brand new show never before performed at Sight & Sound Theatre. If you miss Joshua and the battle of Jericho when the walls come tumbling down you will have to wait at least five years before it returns to the theatre. The cost for a double room is \$585 per person and a single room is \$784.

The trip includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners (a smorgasbord dinner and a meal in an Amish home), a performance of "Joshua," President James Buchanan's Wheatland, Kitchen Kettle Village, Li'l Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation, and

driver's tip. The bus leaves and returns from St. Mark's UMC in Daleville.

Flyers and registration forms are on the church homepage, stmarksmethodist.com, or call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933. (Leave your name and number if no answer and she will call you back.) If you are interested, call Julia as soon as possible. The trip is only a few weeks away and time is running out to join the group.

Mt. Bethel Cemetery donations needed

Donations would be appreciated for the Mt. Bethel Church of the Brethren Cemetery upkeep this summer. The cemetery is located off Narrow Passage Road, Eagle Rock. Please send donations to Etta Alexander, P.O. Box 5, Eagle Rock, 24085.

Donations requested for Andrew Chapel Cemetery

Mowing season is here and donations for maintenance of the Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery are welcome. Donations, made payable to Andrew Chapel Cemetery Fund, may be sent to Andrew Chapel UMC, P.O. Box 998, Buchanan, 24066. No contribution is too small and all are greatly appreciated.

Cloverdale Thrift Store has summer items

The Thrift Store at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren has shorts and more shorts!

It also has capris and summer dresses. Donations are welcome. The Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays.

Donations requested for Shiloh Cemetery upkeep

Those who have loved ones buried in, or own plots in, Shiloh United Methodist Church Cemetery on Shiloh Road, Eagle Rock, are asked to give monetary donations to help with the upkeep of the cemetery. Expenses such as gasoline, equipment expenses and labor have all gone up. Also, anyone interested in looking at a resting place may call 540-620-2625 for information.

Please make checks payable to Shiloh United Methodist Church Cemetery and send to:

Sharon Britt, 1281 Salt Petre Cave Road, Eagle Rock, Va. 24085.

Fincastle Clothes Closet open dates

Fincastle United Methodist's Clothes Closet will be open on Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Family Life Center at 137 S. Church Street. Donations of gently worn, clean clothing and shoes also will be accepted. Call the church office at 540-473-3001 to arrange to bring donations during office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

Funds needed for Mays-Kern Cemetery

The Mays-Kern Cemetery on Narrow Passage Road, Eagle Rock, needs donations from persons or families who have loved ones buried in the cemetery, or wish to be buried there, to help with the upkeep of this cemetery. Mowing and upkeep are done by several family members and they need help with expenses and cleanup. Call Grace Mundy at 540-494-5995 or Sharon Britt at 540-620-2625 for more information.

Those who can help may make checks payable to Grace Mundy and send to her at 8232 Narrow Passage Road, Eagle Rock, 24085.

Flowers in Fincastle



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATSY DICKERSON

The Big Spring Garden Club and the Town of Fincastle joined together to plant the seven planters on Roanoke Street in Fincastle. Patsy Dickerson, Lyn Burton and Pam Wiegandt were the "planters." On the right, James River's Jeremiah Mays tends to some flowers.

Historic Fincastle, Inc. also planted flowers with the help of James River students during their day of Service to the Community in April. Residents (Saunders, Smith/Beard, Higgenbotham, Bordett, and Brooks) near the green pots around town have volunteered to water the flowerpots.

- Submitted by Patsy Dickerson

The Fincastle Herald

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 632 THORNBLADE WAY, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 29, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$428,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210003034. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 23, 2026, at 4:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: LOT 40, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF THORNBLADE, SECTION 1, MADE BY RODERICK F. PIERSON, LLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2007, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 42, PAGES 48-51, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.alldridgepate.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepate.com. VA-383940-1

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on June 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. **TERMS OF SALE:** ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.alldridgepate.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepate.com. VA-372477-1.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Code Amendment request by Maggie Smith, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, "Zoning," Section 42-336 - Permitted uses, to allow for "Day care center, adult" as a permitted use in the General Business (B3) Zoning District.
B. Code Amendment request by Maggie Smith, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, "Zoning," Section 42-336 - Permitted uses, to allow for "Day care center, adult" as a conditionally permitted use in the General Business (B-3) Zoning District.
A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
Request by Foresight Design Services, Applicant, and Free Clinic of the NRV, Inc., Property Owner, to vacate a five-foot-wide by approximately 800-foot-long portion of a 15-foot-wide public utility easement on property located at 130, 135, and 145 Akers Farm Road NE, (identified as Tax Parcel 466 - ((22)) - 4; Parcel ID 100286. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

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Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of DSB PROPERTIES LLC, property owner, for a special exception permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 213 Rutledge Circle (Tax Map #59-2-3.2).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Madison Apartment Homes LLC and Madison Apartment Homes II LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, for an amendment to proffers on Tax Parcel 434 - ((A)) - 8A (Parcel ID 110779) and 434 - ((A)) - 8B (Parcel ID 310087), consisting of approximately 7.950 acres, located at the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road, New Village Drive, and Bozeman Trail. The property is zoned Multi-Family Residential (R-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2020 rezoning action. The applicant has proffered new conditions after the initial public hearing for this request. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing

for Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board of Supervisors Boardroom in the Montgomery County Government Center, located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to dedicate a variable width permanent drainage easement and a variable width temporary construction easement to VDOT and to vacate an existing twenty foot (20') waterline easement and convey a new variable width waterline easement to the Montgomery County Public Service Authority (PSA) all located adjacent to Route 8, Riner Road in the Riner Magisterial District, on a portion of property owned by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery County, Virginia, identified as Tax Parcel No. 119-A 37A for the Route 8, Riner Road Widening Project shown more particularly on photocopy of Sheet Nos. 3, 3RW, 4 and 4RW, showing outlined in Green, the Permanent Drainage Easement, showing outlined in Orange, the Temporary Construction Easement, showing outlined in Blue the new variable width waterline easement and showing outlined in Yellow the existing twenty foot (20') waterline easement to be vacated.

A copy of the Permanent Drainage Easement and Temporary Construction Easement Map can be seen in the County Administration Office, Suite 2 located at the Montgomery County Government Center or on the County's webpage: www.montgomerycountyva.gov

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

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Sports

Tennis

from page 11

Steger will represent River in singles while Maggie Brewster and Payton White will represent the Knights in doubles. White, a right-hander, has been playing with a broken left arm.

"They're figuring out their new challenge with White's broken arm," said coach Brian White after the match with Carroll. "They worked hard last night for the win!"

Track teams prepare for post-season with meet in Moneta

The Lord Botetourt and James River track teams warmed up for post-season competition at the "Golden Eagle Invitational" at Staunton River High School last Saturday. Close to 20 teams competed in the meet.

The Blue Ridge District meet is also at Staunton River High and it's scheduled for today, so the Cavaliers only sent some of their younger athletes to last Saturday's meet. Natalie Mullins was eighth in the pole vault, Lucas Carswell was eighth in the 1600 and Joel Butler took ninth in the pole vault.

For James River, Maddie Davidson was fourth in the 800, Samaya Osborne was fifth in the shot put and Denver Rinehart

took sixth in the 200.

For the boys, River took one-two in the discus with Jack Beheler first and Ashton Orange second, and Ashton was also sixth in the shot put. Ryder Ward was third in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump.

The Three Rivers District does not have a district meet, with the Region 2C meet scheduled for May 29 at Radford High School. Radford also hosted a meet for district schools last week and River had some strong performances. Kendall Childs won the triple jump for the girls and the boys had three first places, Ward in the triple, Orange in the shot and Beheler in the discus.

Laymantown Road to close at its intersection with Route 460; detour will be in place beginning May 21

As part of the safety improvement project at the intersection of Route 658 (Laymantown Road) and Route 460, Laymantown Road will be closed during the summer beginning Thursday, May 21. A detour will be in place.

Drivers traveling in the Bonsack area on eastbound or westbound Route 460 towards Bedford will not be able to turn left or right at the signal onto Laymantown

Road. Instead, detour signs will be in place directing traffic to use Route 1430 (Knoll Road) and Route 1413 (Knollwood Drive) for access to Laymantown Road.

To access Route 460 from Laymantown Road, motorists will follow the detour signs by turning left onto Route 1413 (Knollwood Drive) before reaching the signalized intersection and then turning right onto Route 1430 (Knoll Road).

In addition, lane closures are still possible on Route 460 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. and on Route 658 (Laymantown Road) from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.

All businesses in the area will continue to be accessible.

The project is expected to be completed this summer. - VDOT

Letters

from page 3

had been redeemed (really easy to discover, but eight doesn't sound as bad as 10). The total annual real estate taxes on all 10 parcels is \$2,845.50, and the total on the remaining eight parcels is \$2,329.80. Some of those parcels are vacant land and some are uninhabited or uninhabitable. Somehow, that appears to fall far short

of explaining how, if the total real estate taxes on all 10 parcels together with all penalties and interest were paid, there would be no revenue shortfall? Make no mistake, I am not asking for an attempt to be made to explain this at any future public meeting, but I am sure every opportunity to speak the nonsense will be utilized to its

fullest extent, or longer, as often as possible.

I would, however, like to know how 800 people who might share \$2,400,000.00 are benefitting in the amount of \$30,000.00 each and look forward to that explanation!

Bob Patterson
Fincastle, Buchanan District

Hearings

from page 1

Board Chairman Dr. Mac Scothorn reminded attendees that supervisors would not respond during the hearings, prompting occasional criticism from audience members frustrated by the format.

While the hearings focused on the budget and tax rates, some residents again referenced the proposed Google Data Center project and broader concerns about county growth and infrastructure planning. Several speakers questioned future county obligations tied to water infrastructure expansion associated with the project, while others argued the debate had distracted from school funding needs.

Many comments centered on public schools, with residents

sharply divided over whether the county should restore additional funding requested by Botetourt County Public Schools (BCPS).

Supporters of increased school funding pointed to aging facilities, teacher retention challenges, and long-term economic benefits tied to education investment.

Student speakers drew some of the evening's strongest reactions from the audience.

A sophomore at Lord Botetourt High School urged supervisors to follow through on the proposed increase in school funding, describing how teachers in Botetourt County changed the trajectory of her education.

"That transformation didn't happen by accident," the student

said. "It happened because this school system has educators who were skilled enough, supported enough, and equipped enough to help students succeed."

A fellow student credited Botetourt teachers with helping shape her academic future, including acceptance into the Roanoke Valley Governor's School.

"Teachers have such a large impact on students," another student noted. "They are not just teachers about core subjects, but they also help us develop skills that set us up for successful futures."

Several residents highlighted deteriorating school facilities, particularly at Lord Botetourt High School, which opened in 1959.

One Lord Botetourt

student described hearing birds inside the ceiling during PSAT testing and cited maintenance concerns in the school auditorium used for theater productions.

"At a certain point, you can't ignore that," this student added.

Others argued that investment in schools protects property values and supports long-term economic growth.

One comment said many residents misunderstand how school funding operates and warned against what she called misinformation surrounding the budget process.

"The school budget is large because the department is large, but a large budget does not mean an intentionally mismanaged budget," one resident said.

But critics of the additional spending argued the county should prioritize balancing the budget with existing revenues and exercise greater fiscal restraint.

Several residents praised Supervisors Linda Rottman and Walter Michael for their work on the budget subcommittee and criticized the board's later additions to the budget during April

discussions.

A Blue Ridge District resident said the subcommittee and department heads had worked to produce a balanced budget before changes were made.

"Through their hard work ... they were able to bring a balanced budget back," the Blue Ridge man said. "But through some macro politics and controversial means, it was amended to add over \$3 million back in."

Residents repeatedly raised concerns about county debt levels, future obligations, and reliance on projected revenues tied to economic development.

Some called for independent audits of the school system and questioned whether spending increases had translated into improved outcomes.

Others warned against using anticipated future revenues from projects that are not yet operational.

"We cannot continue to think that we're having all this Google money coming in," one woman commented. "We don't know if that's going to end up happening."

The tax rate hearing that followed drew fewer speakers, but echoed many of the same concerns. Residents

largely supported the board's decision to leave advertised tax rates unchanged while cautioning supervisors against future increases.

One comment said many county residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, were already struggling with rising costs.

"The taxpayers of Botetourt County are maxed out," a Troutville resident told the board during the budget hearing, citing rising delinquency rates in real estate tax payments.

Despite divisions over spending priorities, several speakers acknowledged the difficulty of the budget process and thanked supervisors for their service.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to continue budget discussions later this month before adopting the county's final FY27 budget.

Additionally, there were comments prepared by some residents to address the Google Data Center project during last Wednesday's meeting. The county shared that those comments and additional comments related to the agenda and non-related items would be heard at the May 28 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

To stay up to date on the budget process and more county information, visit botetourtva.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Botetourt County Administration Center at 57 South Center Drive in Daleville, Virginia.

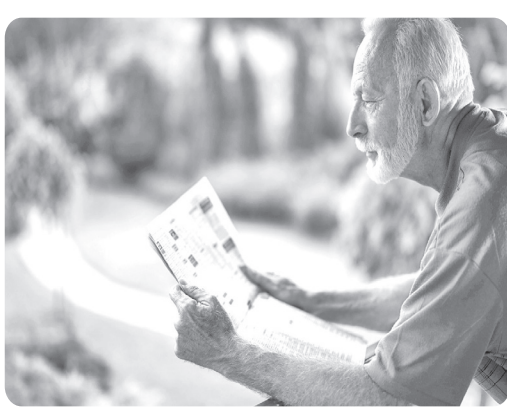
For information regarding this meeting, please see www.botetourtva.gov or contact the County Administrator's Office at 540-928-2006.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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NOTICE

All Botetourt County governmental offices, libraries and the landfill station will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day. The Botetourt County Treasurer's Office and Registrar's Office will also be closed.

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500-599	\$385.00-\$419.00
600-699	\$385.00
700-799	\$354.00

Graded Bulls

300-399	\$517.00
400-499	\$415.00-\$424.00
500-599	\$367.00-\$394.00
600-699	\$315.00-\$330.00

Graded Heifers

300-399	\$389.00-\$436.00
400-499	\$352.00-\$419.00
500-599	\$358.00-\$380.00
600-699	\$330.00

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PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF BUCHANAN

The Town of Buchanan Board of Zoning Appeals will be holding a hearing on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 PM in Town Hall (19753 Main Street) to consider a variance to Section 401(D)(1) – Discontinuance of Nonconforming Uses – to allow for the continuance of a multifamily dwelling at 9 Bridge Street S.

Persons interested in speaking to this item are encouraged to attend and make a statement to the Commission and Council. Information regarding this hearing is available upon request at Town Hall and will be posted with the meeting agenda on the Town website.

Davidova finishes second in Scott Robertson Memorial Tournament

Alisa Davidova, a rising senior at Lord Botetourt High School, finished tied for second in the girls' 15-18 age division at the Scott Robertson Memorial Golf Tournament last weekend at the Roanoke Country Club.

Davidova shot a three-day total of 210. She shot 72 on the first day, followed by a three-under-par 68 on Saturday and a one-under 70 on Sunday. Courtney Grace won the tournament with a score of 207 in a field that attracts many of the top young golfers in the nation.

"It's awesome seeing RCC members winning tournaments like this," said Davidova, who has committed to play at Missouri after she graduates from Lord Botetourt in the spring of 2027. "The players out here are awesome.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER
Rising LB senior Alisa Davidova finished tied for second in the Scott Robertson Golf Tournament.

Everyone hits it pretty close, so it's almost like a putting contest. Whoever makes the most putts, or the least amount of mistakes, usually wins."



PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER
River's Avery Carr throws the ball in at a recent soccer game.

The James River soccer teams will wrap up the regular season this week. Tonight both the boys and girls play Carroll County with the boys in Springwood while the girls are off to Hillsville.

There is no Three Rivers District tournament for soccer so, after this week, the Region 2C tournament will be the next action for 3RD teams. Region rankings will be set after final regular season games are played this week.

The James River boys are 1-14-1 after dropping their last two games, both by 3-0 scores to Martinsville and Patrick County. The Knights also have a game at Floyd County Friday.

The girls won three games last week to improve to 9-7 overall and 9-2 in the district. Those three wins most likely clinched a Region home opener for the Knights against an opponent to be determined.

The girls won back-to-back shutouts over Martinsville last week. Last Tuesday in Martinsville they won 8-0 as Avery Saunders and Jordyn Simmons scored two goals each and Sophia Martin, Lilly Falls, Vivian Vernon and Rhaya Kitt, taking a break out of the goal, all scored for the Knights.

A night later the Bulldogs returned the trip and River won by a shutout again, 7-0 in Springwood. This was Senior Night for the Knights and everyone wanted to get the game in despite an ominous weather forecast.

The match started as it had the night before with the Knights

River soccer finishes regular seasons tonight

dominating. Goals from Ayden Jennings, Regan Childs, Sonny Sharp, Saunders, Payten White and two from Sophia Martin took the game into the break with a 7-0 lead.

The weather was holding, but just barely, as seniors Chloe Helmondollar, Bri Mitchell, Hayley Rader, Regan Childs, and Lilly Falls were recognized with a walk out and flowers. The game was called after the opening whistle of the second half on account of the weather as the players and families quickly retreated to the school for a senior reception.

On Friday in Stuart the Knights made it a clean sweep for the week with a 6-2 win over Patrick County. Sharp, Simmons and Saunders scored first-half goals to give River a 3-1 lead. Patrick cut the lead to 3-2 early in the second half but Saunders and Simmons answered to make it 5-2 and Saunders completed her three goal "hat trick" to put it away. Kendra Zepp had six saves for the Knights.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Brennen Monaghan of the River boys' soccer team handles the ball.



Botetourt's Gus Feeny gets a head on the ball.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
Reagan Helms (19) chases down a free ball for the Cavaliers.

Blue Ridge championship soccer doubleheader is at Northside Friday

Northside High School's Jim Hickam Field will be the site for both the Blue Ridge District girls' and boys' soccer championships this Friday night. The girls' championship is scheduled for 5 p.m. with the boys to follow at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Semifinals for both tournaments were Tuesday. In the girls' tournament Lord Botetourt was at Franklin County and Northside was at William Byrd. The boys' semifinals had LB hosting Franklin County and Northside at top-seeded William Fleming.

The Botetourt girls are the third seed, coming into the week at 10-7 overall and 6-4 in the district. The girls come into the post-season red hot as they went 3-0 last week, outscoring three opponents by a total score of 9-1.

The week opened with a 5-1 win over William Fleming in Roanoke. Taylor Jones had a three-goal "hat trick" for the Cavaliers and Addison Purser and Emery Collins had one goal each.

A night later in Daleville the girls took a 4-0 win over E.C. Glass in a game called at halftime due to lightning. Jones, Kendall Nixon, Reagan Helms and Maggie Hoover all scored for LB.

The regular season wrapped up on Friday

with the second shutout win over the week, 5-0 at Northside. Ella Fetcher had two goals and Helms, Nixon and Summer Sharp all hit the net for LB.

The boys closed out the regular season with two impressive wins, highlighted by a statement 3-1 win over previously undefeated William Fleming in Daleville. The Cavaliers delivered one of their most complete performances of the season against the visiting Colonels by capitalizing on key moments throughout the match. Jackson Taylor and Isaac Alderman each had standout performances, both scoring a goal while also recording an assist. Cooper Pastrikos added another goal after finding the back of the net on a loose ball following a corner kick.

The Cavaliers carried that momentum into the regular season finale at home against Northside Friday, grinding out a hard-fought 1-0 victory. Luke Peery scored the game's lone goal off a corner kick as the Botetourt defense secured the shutout to close the regular season on a high note.

The Cavaliers also appear set to enter the regional tournament as the number four seed, most likely hosting Pulaski County in the opening round.

Botetourt tennis teams await Region pairings

The Region 3D tennis tournaments will be held next week as the Lord Botetourt boys and girls both await pairings. Both teams have had strong regular seasons and are looking forward to the post-season.

The LB boys defeated Northside last Friday by a score of 6-3 to end the regular season with an 8-6 record. Ethan Steryous will advance to the regional singles tournament, while Steryous and Davis Kidd will compete together in



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN
LB's Srijal Baniya hits a return for the boys' tennis team.

doubles. "For such a young team, achieving a winning season is a notable accomplishment," said coach Tim Howard. "From what we understand, the team also moved into the district lead following a victory over William Byrd last week." The girls beat William Fleming and Northside last week, both by 9-0 scores. With those results the Cavaliers are 11-2 overall and undefeated in the Blue Ridge District at 8-0. They have one regular season match to go before the regional tournament, a non-district make-up match at Christiansburg tonight.

Knights will be represented in Region 2C tennis singles and doubles



PHOTO COURTESY JRHS TENNIS
Payton White (left) and Maggie Brewster will represent James River in Region 2C tennis doubles despite White's broken arm.

The James River girls' tennis team will wrap up the regular season on Thursday with a match against Martinsville at the Hollins University courts. In the past week the Knights lost to Patrick County, 6-3, but bounced back for an 8-1 win over Carroll County in Hillsville Monday.

The Knights will be competing in Region 2C singles and doubles next week. Leanna

See Tennis, page 10

Softball

from page 12

Robinson combined on a five-inning, one-hitter as Saville improved her record to 9-4 on the season. Ella Hutchens and Sydnee Breeding had three hits each.

In the regular scheduled game the Vikings came from 4-0 and 6-3 down to win 7-6 in six innings. The game was scheduled for five innings and Northside won in six when the International Tie-Breaker rule was used for the extra inning,

starting with a runner on second base. The Knights had runners on second and third with no outs in the top of the sixth but failed to score.

James River had jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning of game two, but the Vikings countered with three runs of their own. River scored two more in the top of the second but the Vikings rallied to tie, then walked off the win. Caitlyn Downey

and Breeding had two hits apiece while Keira Crawford and Robinson had two RBIs each.

After the split the Knights are 14-6 overall and 8-3 in the district with the Carroll County game yet to be played. Last week the Knights hosted Floyd County in a big 3RD game lost a heartbreaker, 6-5.

River led this one 5-1 after two innings and was holding on 5-4 after five when the Buffalo

gals struck for two in the top of the sixth to grab a 6-5 lead. In the bottom of the sixth, with one out and no one on, Knights' pinch hitter Andi Kreklow singled to right field. Downey followed with a clutch single to left, then Breeding then hit a high, deep drive to right centerfield that appeared to be in the gap but Floyd's Kaylee Myers made a phenomenal effort getting to the ball and came up with a spectacular

catch while going to the ground.

On the bases there was uncertainty because for a few seconds there was no clarity as to whether the ball had been caught or not. Myers threw the ball into the infield and on to first base to record a double play. Pinch runner Gracie Cash had actually tagged on second base, and she ran all the way home but it was determined that she did not score before the third out. Neither

team mounted a threat in the seventh inning and the Lady Buffalos escaped with a big victory.

"The catch by Myers basically saved the game for them," said River coach Steve Austin. "A lot of credit to her and the effort she put into that play. Our confusion on the base paths was inevitable given the wait by the umpires to confirm a catch. Great play by the Buffalos and a huge opportunity lost for us."

Baseball

from page 12

really been a steady presence on the mound and I can't imagine where we would be without him."

Saunders also had three hits in the win and Carter Birckhead had two hits

and an RBI. Colt Cook scored two runs.

On Friday in Stuart the Knights dropped a 9-7 game to host Patrick County. The Cougars scored all nine

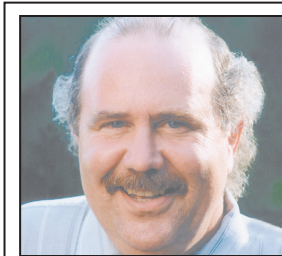
runs in a big second inning. River cut the lead to 9-5 in the fourth and scored two in the sixth but ran out of time. Evan Joyce had two hits and Saunders drove in two runs.

The Three Rivers District does not have a district tournament. After today's game in Hillsville the Knights will wait to see where they stand for next week's Region tournament.

BOTETOVRT

Sports

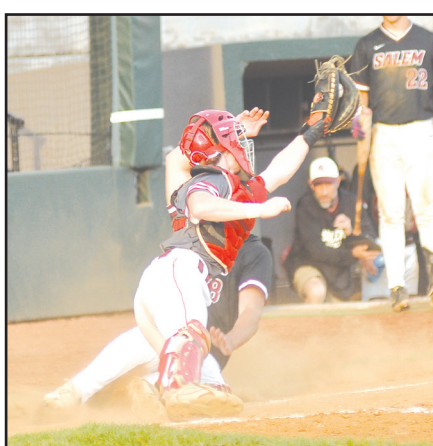
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Brian Hoffman

Sports Editor

Cavaliers playing in the Blue Ridge District baseball tournament



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Emery Lonker of LB (left) rips a hit in last week's game in Salem. Botetourt catcher Beau Lonker (right) dives to catch a throw from the outfield in a close play at the plate.

The Lord Botetourt baseball team was headed to Franklin County as the paper went to press Tuesday to play Franklin County in the Blue Ridge District tournament semifinal. The winner will take on the winner of a game between William Byrd and Northside on Friday at Northside High for the district tournament championship.

While Botetourt would love to win the district, the Region 3D tournament is the one that really counts and the Cavaliers were on the bubble of making the field at press time. The top eight in the region qualify

and LB was sitting at number eight with several teams still having games to play this week. The Blue Ridge tournament games do not count for Region seeding.

Botetourt had three games last week and went 1-2. They beat William Fleming in Roanoke, 15-0, as Jaidan Pennix went four-for-four at the plate. Five different pitchers went one inning with Garrett Lonker picking up the win.

A day later LB played a makeup game against Salem at Billy Sample Field and lost 11-6 in a game that was

shortened to six innings by lightning. Lonker took the loss in this one, pitching three and two-thirds innings. Pennix had a home run and two RBIs while Garrett and Emery Lonker had two hits each.

On Friday the Cavs finished the regular season with a 5-1 loss to the host Vikings at Northside. Jackson Crenshaw pitched three innings and took the loss despite allowing just one earned run. LB had six hits, two by Chase Peck.

The Cavaliers ended the regular season with an 11-10 record.

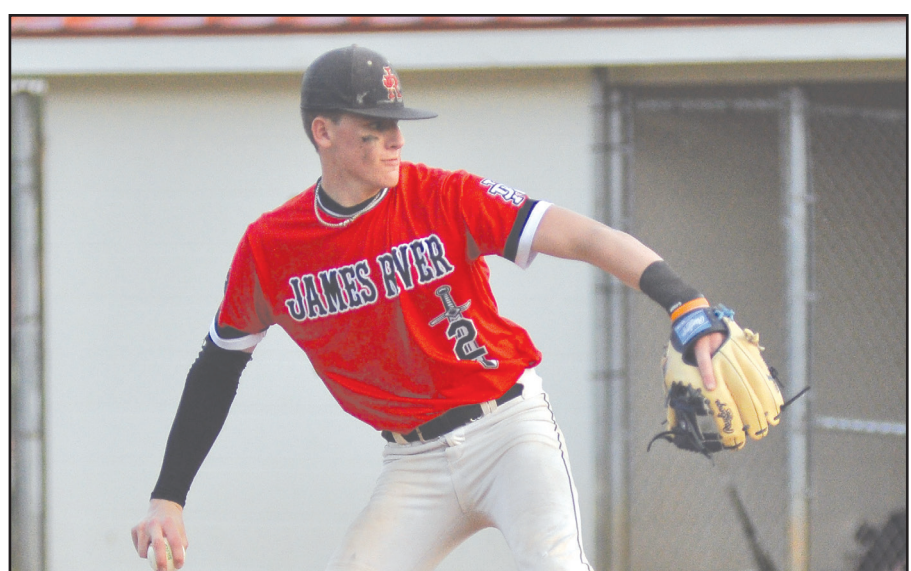


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

River's Cam Saunders pitched a complete game for a win over Floyd.

River is hoping to host Region opening round baseball game

The James River baseball team will be at Carroll County today for the last game of the regular season, and it's a big one. The Knights are hoping to host a first round Region 2C game and a win over the Cavaliers would be huge.

As of Monday's results River was fifth in the rankings and the top four get first round games next week. James River has a 3.4 rating and fourth place Dan River was at 3.5, but a win over Class 3 Carroll would likely move the Knights into fourth place.

River picked up a big win against Floyd last week, downing the Buffaloes 4-2 in Floyd. The Knights trailed 2-1 after six innings but scored three in the top of the seventh to pull off the

win.

"A much-needed win for us against Floyd," said River coach Chance Henry. "Floyd got us earlier in the season when we had a bad night so we were hungry for this one. We didn't hit the ball great, but man we executed well down the stretch."

Cam Saunders pitched a complete game gem for the Knights, allowing just four hits and one walk while striking out eight.

"He really has been putting it together on the mound," said Henry of Saunders. "He's had a complete game in three of his last four starts and could've been four of four. He's

See **Baseball**, page 11

Northside is site of BRD softball championship Friday

The Blue Ridge District tournament softball championship game will be held at Northside High School's Lynn Richmond Field on Friday at 5 p.m. Semifinal games were scheduled for Tuesday, too late for press deadlines, with the Lord Botetourt girls playing at

Franklin County in one semifinal and William Byrd at Staunton River in the other.

The Cavaliers come into the week at 11-10 overall and they're on a roll after going 3-0 last week. On Wednesday of last week they knocked out 23 hits in an

18-1 win over Blacksburg. Abby Perkey drove in five runs on four hits to lead the offense and had one of three LB home runs along with Callie Shuler and Olivia Pierce. Olivia fanned 10 to pick up the win in the circle.

On Friday LB celebrated the seniors with a 16-10 win against Northside in Daleville. Botetourt collected 12 hits on the day with Pierce having five RBIs and going three-for-three. Pierce pitched the majority of the game and struck out 13 with Phoenix Humphries finishing up.

On Saturday morning LB had a makeup game at Cave Spring. The host Knights

led this one 2-1 after six innings but in the top of the seventh inning Bailey Hutchins tripled to right to keep the Cavaliers alive. Then, with two outs and two strikes, Pierce hit a home run to centerfield for a 3-2 lead and Olivia pitched a shutout bottom of the inning to seal the win.

"I am so proud of our girls for fighting from start to finish in this game," said coach Megan Cook. "It was a great win for us."

The Region 3D tournament is next week and LB is still waiting for the final rankings with the top eight qualifying for the tournament.

Coming Soon!

Give a shout out to your favorite businesses around
The Roanoke Valley



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Cast your votes from
May 24 to June 21

More than 100 categories—from

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 - Ice Cream Shops • and much more,
- You can cast your votes in each Category

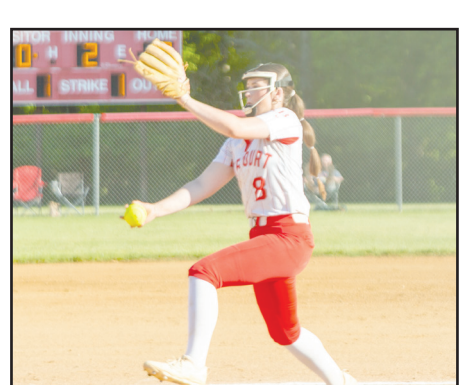
Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in

New Castle Record & Fincastle Herald on July 29
& Salem Times Register & Vinton Messenger July 30.



Botetourt first baseman Callie Kidd reacts to a hit against Northside.



PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Olivia Pierce struck out 13 Vikings in last week's win over Northside.

River is fourth in Region softball standings with regular season winding down

The James River softball team will wrap up the regular season today with a game in Hillsville and it's a big one. A win over Class 3 Carroll County would all but assure the Knights of opening the Region 2C tournament at home next week.

The top eight teams in the region make the tournament with the top four getting home games. River is currently ranked fourth after splitting a big doubleheader with Class 3 Northside on Monday. The Knights had a 4.8 rating at that time, just barely ahead of fifth place Dan River at 4.76. Appomattox, Patrick County and Floyd County occupy the top three spots.

River had a chance to sweep the Vikings on Monday but let the second game slip away. The Knights won the first

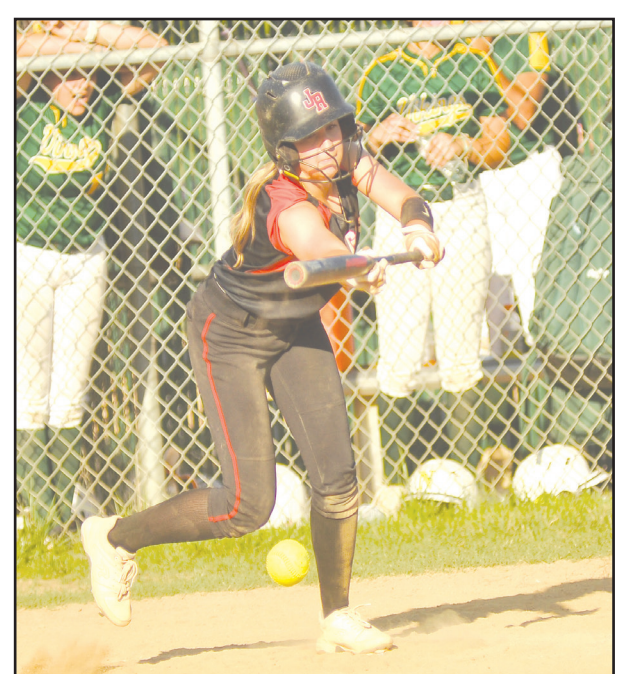


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Caitlyn Downey drops down a bunt for a hit at Northside Monday.

game 12-1, completing a suspended game that they led 8-0 after rain interrupted the game in the

second inning. Makenna Saville and Laken

See **Softball**, page 11